

STANISLAW MIKOLAJCZYK

Born on July 18th, 1901, in Holsterhausen, Western Germany, as the son of a small farmer from Western Poland who in search of livelihood had gone to work in the coal mines of Westphalia. From savings, his father later bought a small holding of 5 acres near Poznan, in German-occupied Western Poland. It was here that Stanislaw Mikolajczyk worked on the land from seven to sixteen years of age. At sixteen he went to work in a sugar refinery. In 1918, as a member of the organization "Sokol" (Falcons) he took an active part in the Polish insurrection against the Germans. In 1920 as a soldier he fought in the ranks of the Polish Army against the advancing Bolshevik armies and was wounded.

Back from the war he graduated from Agricultural High School and the People's University and after his father's death took over his farm which in the meantime had grown to 12 acres. He participates as a social worker in the life of numerous organizations, agricultural, cooperative and political.

In 1924 he became secretary of the Provincial Headquarters of the Polish Peasant Party and editor of a farmer's weekly (Wloscianin Wielkopolski). He also contributed articles to several newspapers and publications of the Polish Peasant Party (Gazeta Grudziandzka, Piast, Zielony Sztandar).

Later he organized and was the first president of the Association of Peasant Youth of Western Poland and taught at the Popular University of peasant youth in Nietazkow.

He also organized agricultural training organizations for youth (4-H Club) on the territory of the Poznan province.

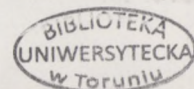
He took active part in the local government, as a member of the Local Council, Communal Council and County Council. He was a member of the County Committee, Provincial Council, Provincial Executive Committee and Provincial Administrative Court and also a member of the County Council of Savings Associations.

In the economic field, he was a member of the executive of the local Agricultural Cooperative and a member of the Provincial Executive of Agricultural Cooperatives, comprising agricultural trading, milk producers', banking and land reform cooperatives, and chairman of the Provincial Association of Cooperatives for Marketing of Pigs which he organized for the entire province of Poznan.

He was also co-founder and member of the Regional Association for Electrification.

He was elected a member of the Poznan Agricultural Chamber and member of the Executive of that Chamber.

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After 70 years of existence of the organization of Poznanian Farming Associations he was the first peasant to be elected its chairman. Before the Second World War in Poland he was also a vice-chairman of the Association of Agricultural Chambers and Organizations.

In 1930 he ran for Parliament and was elected on the ticket of the Polish Peasant Party of which he was parliamentary secretary.

In 1935 his Party was in the strongest opposition to the Pilsudski-Beck regime and boycotted the elections, Mikolajczyk became vice-chairman of the Party and twice acting chairman during the exile of its leader Wincenty Witos. He led the famous peasant strike in 1937, as a protest against the dictatorial regime ruling Poland.

In 1939 he fought against the Germans as a soldier in the Polish Army. He was interned in Hungary, escaped and arrived in France, where he assumed the duties of vice-president of a Polish Parliament in exile of which Paderewski was president.

In 1941 he became vice-premier of General Sikorski's government in London and minister of the interior, whose duty it was to keep in contact with the underground organization in German occupied Poland.

In 1943, after Sikorski's death, he became Polish Premier. In August and October 1944 he went twice to Moscow for political discussions with Stalin, concerning Polish-Soviet relations.

In June 1945, after the Big Three conference in Moscow, he assumed the duties of vice-premier and minister of agriculture in the Provisional Polish Government of National Unity in Warsaw. In January 1947 he resigned from the government in protest against the falsification of the returns in the Polish parliamentary elections. He became the leader of the opposition in the Parliament, to which he was elected from two districts: Warsaw and Gniezno.

By October 1947 the Communist regime's terror and persecution made all political activity of the Polish Peasant Party impossible. Mikolajczyk learnt, that at the first session of Parliament he and other prominent leaders of the Peasant Party would be deprived of parliamentary immunity, tried by a special court and sentenced to death by order of the Communist regime. He left Poland secretly on October 20th and arrived in London on November 1st. From London he went to New York on November 26, 1947.

In January 1948 he wrote a series of articles under the title "The Coming Russian Terror", which were published by more than 200 newspapers in America, Europe and Asia.

In the fall of 1948, he had his book published under the



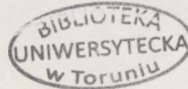
title: "The Rape of Poland". This book was also published in England under the title "The Pattern of Soviet Domination". Editions of this book also appeared in Sweden, Denmark, Holland, France and Italy in languages of those countries, as well as in other languages.

In 1948 he was elected President of the International Peasant Union, an organization representing 12 national peasant and agrarian parties from the European countries which had been subjugated by Communist subversion and aggression.

In 1950 he became President of the Polish National Democratic Committee, which has its headquarters in Washington, was reelected as President of the International Peasant Union, and in 1951 he became member of the Central and Eastern European Committee, an organization of democratic leaders and representatives of political parties from all the European nations behind the Iron Curtain.

He is a member of the International Council of the European Movement in Strasburg and chairman of the delegation of the International Peasant Union in the Assembly of Captive European Nations with headquarters in New York.

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